

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 IO-13 /084 W  
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R 171621Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8669  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY GABERONE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMECONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 0503

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, ZA, NI, RH  
SUBJECT: KAUNDA COMPLETES STATE VISIT TO NIGERIA

REF: LAGOS 365

SUMMARY. PRESIDENT KAUNDA LEFT NIGERIA JANUARY 16 WITH SOME  
DISPARAGING REMARKS FOR MUZOREWA AND WITHOUT OBTAINING NIGERIAN  
AGREEMENT TO GIVE EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION TO PATRIOTIC FRONT.  
FMG APPARENTLY REMAINS RELUCTANT TO MAKE CHOICE AMONG VARIOUS  
COMPETING LIBERATION GROUPS. ALTHOUGH KAUNDA BATTLED WITH  
FESTAC FOR ATTENTION OF COUNTRY'S INFORMATION MEDIA, VISIT  
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SEEMED GO OFF WELL; NIGERIAN OFFICIALS WERE LAVISH IN THEIR  
PRAISE FOR KAUNDA'S LEADERSHIP AND ZAMBIA'S SACRIFICES IN THE  
LIBERATION STRUGGLE. END SUMMARY.

1. NIGERIA HAS NOT YET DECIDED TO GIVE EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION  
TO PATRIOTIC FRONT OF JOSHUA NKOMO AND ROBER MUGABE. JOINT  
COMMUNIQUE SIGNED JANUARY 16 AT END OF ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT

KENNETH KAUNDA'S SIX-DAY STATE VISIT TO NIGERIA FAILED TO CONTAIN STATEMENT OF NIGERIAN SUPPORT FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. ALTHOUGH TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE, ZAMBIAN DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER CONFIRMED TO POLCOUNS THAT COMMUNIQUE IS SILENT ON SUBJECT OF NIGERIAN SUPPORT FOR THE FRONT. COMMUNIQUE APPARENTLY CONTAINS CALL FOR GREATER ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS AND REITERATION OF SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION SOUTHERN AFRICA.

2. STILL SEEKING UNDERSTANDING FOR HIS POSITION, THE ZAMBIAN LEADER TOLD NEWSMEN AT AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR ACCRA THAT THE FIVE FRONTLINE STATES HAD RECOGNIZED THE PATRIOTIC FRONT BECAUSE IT COMMANDED THE SUPPORT OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS. HE DEFENDED THE DECISION AS A "STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION" AND SAID BY TAKING IT THE FRONTLINE GOVERNMENTS HOPED TO AVOID ANOTHER ANGOLAN SITUATION. HE CHARGED THAT BISHOP MUZOREWA HAD NO SUPPORT AMONG THE FIGHTING FORCES AND WENT ON TO ASSERT THAT THE ANC LEADER HOPED TO BECOME PRIME MINISTER OF ZIMBABWE BY ALIGNING HIMSELF WITH AGENTS AND PUPPET ORGANIZATION OF IAN SMITH.

3. KAUNDA'S VISIT APPEARED TO GO WELL OTHERWISE. HE VISITED MAIDUGURI AND PORT HARCOURT ACCOMPAINED BY EXTAFF COMMISSIONER JOSEPH GARBA. AT STATE BANQUET FOR ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT JANUARY 14, NIGERIA'S HEAD OF STATE LT. GENERAL OBASANJO WAS LAVISH IN HIS PRAISE FOR KAUNDA'S LEADERSHIP IN THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE AND FOR THE SACRIFICES WHICH ZAMBIA HAD MADE ON BEHALF OF AFRICA. HE PLEDGED NIGERIA'S TOTAL COMMITMENT TO THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM AND HUMAN DIGNITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. CONFIDENTIAL

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4. WHILE KAUNDA'S VISIT DID NOT RECEIVE THE MEDIA ATTENTION GIVEN TO TANZANIAN PRESIDENT HYERERE LAST NOVEMBER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT WAS COMPETING FOR ATTENTION WITH FESTAC AND SOME DOZEN OTHER HEADS OF STATE WHO WERE IN LAGOS FOR THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THAT CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA. HE WAS, HOWEVER, ACCORDED A PROMINENT PLACE IN ALL NEWS ACCOUNTS AND SHARED THE SPOTLIGHT WITH OBASANJO AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONIES FOR FESTAC ON JANUARY 15. KAUNDA WAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLY MORE PRESS PLAY THAN ANY OTHER HEAD OF STATE, INCLUDING PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY OF IVORY COAST WHOSE APPEARANCE AT THE FESTAC OPENING WAS GIVEN NO SPECIAL NOTICE.

5. COMMENT: KAUNDA MUST BE KEENLY DISAPPOINTED OVER FAILURE GAIN FMG ENDORSEMENT OF FRONTLINE DECISION TO RECOGNIZE PATRIOTIC FRONT. HE WAS CLEARLY SEEKING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE ACTION IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE. SEEMINGLY FMG STILL ENTERTAINS SOME HOPE THAT THE VARIOUS LIBERATION GROUPS CAN

UNITE BEHIND A LEADER. IT IS RELUCTANT MAKE A CHOICE AMONG THEM  
BEFORE THE PROBABLE WINNER IS MORE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED. REPORTS  
OF MUZOREWA'S WIDESPREAD SUPPORT INSIDE RHODESIA MAY ALSO  
HAVE INFLUENCED NIGERIAN ATTITUDE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, OVIP, ZA, NI, RH, (KAUNDA, KENNETH DAVID)  
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